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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2017 TAGS: <u>PREL PTER IR IZ MU</u>

SUBJECT: OMANI SUPPORT FOR U.S. ENGAGEMENT WITH IRAN ON IRAQ

REF: STATE 70894

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

(C) During a broader discussion on Iran and other issues with Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi (septel), the Ambassador on June 2 delivered reftel points on the May 28 meeting in Baghdad between U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and Iran's ambassador to Iraq. Bin Alawi responded that he was "confident" that Iran wished to be "helpful" on Iraq, and that Tehran was "willing to be a partner" in fighting terrorism. He remarked that Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, had told him that Iran could "help crush" al-Qaeda, and that the Iranian government was open to exploring ways to cooperate with the U.S. on Iraq. GRAPPO